MINNDEPENDENT

MINNDEPENDENT Invites Member Schools to Apply for the Community Partnership Grant:

We Care Solar
Solar Solutionaries

This innovative program empowers students in grades 6–12 to explore solar energy, climate change, social justice, and innovation through hands-on learning and global connection.

Through teacher training, engaging curriculum, and hands-on solar tools, students don't just learn how energy works — they apply it to real-world challenges. Along the way, they begin to see what's possible for their own future.

Program Highlights

- **Flexible Implementation:** Teachers integrate the program during the 2027-2028 school year, either within class time or as an after-school activity.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Approximately 5–10 hours of engaging lessons and lab activities bring solar energy concepts to life.
- **Comprehensive Teacher Training:** Participating teachers receive in-depth preparation, including:
  - An **in-person workshop** in Minneapolis (August 2027, date/time TBD).
  - A **self-paced online course** for additional training.
- **Solar Suitcase Kits:** Each grant recipient school will receive **2–10 Solar Suitcase kits** (based on student participation). These include all materials needed to build and experiment with standalone solar electric systems.

The Solar Suitcase Learning Kit

The kit offers students hands-on experience building a standalone solar electric system that is simple and accessible for teachers to implement.

- Hands-on experiential learning
- Equity and inclusion lens
- Interdisciplinary integration
- Real world relevance
- Solar Solutionaries® Challenge
- Global impact and connection



Designed for reuse, the Suitcase can be disassembled and used as a learning tool year after year and used as a backup power source for light and device charging. Digital curriculum includes 6-10 core lesson hours and extension lessons.

- **Virtual Learning Platform:** A user-friendly online platform provides access to curriculum resources and collaboration tools for students and teachers.
- **Global Impact: MINNDEPENDENT** will sponsor a **Solar Suitcase deployment** to a community in East Africa experiencing energy poverty. The placement story, shared with educators during training, fosters global citizenship and illustrates the transformative power of renewable energy.
- **Local Impact:** All Solar Suitcase equipment remains at the school, serving as both an emergency preparedness tool and an ongoing resource for solar education.

Student Outcomes

By participating in *Power2Share*, students will:

- Deepen their understanding of solar energy and its role in addressing climate change.
- Build practical engineering and problem-solving skills.
- Develop a sense of social responsibility and global citizenship.
- Engage in learning aligned with **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**.

Education That Powers Change

Hands-on Learning Experience
Students construct and test real solar circuits, developing technical skills and systems thinking.

Comprehensive resources
Engaging curriculum that takes students deeper into understanding and applying solar concepts.

Professional Development
Teachers build confidence with hands-on solar technology in immersive professional development workshops.

Real World Relevance
Connecting classrooms to local and global solar applications.

Ready to Power Up Your School?



Gain solar literacy.



Practice stem skills.



Be a global citizen.